

very fluid and chaotic situation caused by the surrender of more than 800 Iraqi soldiers.”

I will never forget Chief Warrant Officer W5 John Currie and all he did not only to lead his men so effectively against the enemy, but in setting such a high standard for all of the officers in the command, to include myself.

Chief Warrant Officer John Currie is a credit to the United States Marine Corps, and it's an honor to reflect on his service to our Nation and to the Marine Corps as we approach the 236th birthday of the Corps.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today with a heavy heart to talk about sexual assault and rape in the military, an epidemic in this country that must be addressed.

As I've said before, the Department of Defense, by its own statistics, has stated that 19,000 servicemembers, women and men, every year are raped by fellow soldiers. I will continue to share these stories until something changes. Survivors can email me at stopmilitaryrape@mail.house.gov if they want to speak out.

Each of these soldiers was raped by another soldier, and each was subjected to a system of justice that protects the perpetrators and punishes the victims. The story I will tell today is the story of Corporal Sarah Albertson. This gets to the rot at the root of the justice system in the military, and that is: a commander, one person, has complete and total discretion in deciding how and if sexual assault and rape are dealt with.

Corporal Albertson served in the Marine Corps from 2003 to 2008. On August 27, 2006, Corporal Albertson was raped by a fellow marine, a man who outranked her. That's right, he outranked her and raped her.

Right after the rape, Corporal Albertson went to her commander to inform him of what had happened. Instead of detaining her alleged assailant, calling in criminal investigators, or sending Corporal Albertson to the hospital to preserve the evidence that would corroborate her story, he told Corporal Albertson that because she had consumed some alcohol, if she reported the rape, she would be charged with inappropriate barracks conduct. She was then told not to discuss her rape with anyone and was also ordered to “respect” her rapist and follow his orders because he outranked her. It soon became clear to Corporal Albertson that others knew about what had happened, and her other superiors, acting with the open support of her commander, ostracized and harassed her.

Corporal Albertson sought counseling. The military counselor that Corporal Albertson went to, in no uncertain terms, advised her commander

that she should not be forced to interact with her rapist and that Corporal Albertson was suffering from panic attacks due to these interactions. Her commander ignored the professional advice and forced her to interact with her rapist for another 2 years. And when she had panic attacks, she was punished.

This same commander also refused Corporal Albertson's request to change housing. Instead, he forced her to live one floor below her rapist for 2 years. The commander also required her to disclose medications she had been prescribed to counter the trauma. Now, Corporal Albertson never filled those prescriptions; but, nonetheless, by having to disclose those prescriptions, she lost her security clearance.

But what happened to her rapist? Not a thing. In fact, I venture to say he has been promoted, not just once, probably twice, maybe three times. I have become painfully aware that at the rate DOD is working to address this issue, the epidemic of military sexual assault will never end.

Mr. Speaker, this is a national travesty. Congress, the administration, the Department of Defense, all of us, all of us should be ashamed of what is going on in the military.

SUPPORTING KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Opponents of this pipeline claim it will damage the environment, that it will ship oil from Canada to China, and that increasing the supply of oil will somehow raise gas prices.

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The truth is that this pipeline has been through the most thorough environmental review of any pipeline in history, the oil carried by it will go to American markets, and it will help lower energy prices by moving capacity from growing basins in Canada, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and west Texas that are comparable in volume to nearly half of the U.S. Persian Gulf imports.

The Keystone XL pipeline will also benefit America by increasing the percentage of our energy supply provided by a stable neighbor and ally. More North American oil means less oil from Venezuela and Iran. This pipeline will create 20,000 high-wage construction jobs and 100,000 indirect jobs. Keystone XL will also provide a new and stable supply access to gulf coast refiners, like the one in Pascagoula, Mississippi, who set the price of gasoline and are vulnerable to OPEC and supply disruptions. We in the House are focused on jobs and the economy, and this pipeline is an obvious, direct example of what

real stimulus looks like—stimulus that comes from the private economy and produces real value.

The fact of the matter is that Canada is going to develop their resources, and if we do not want their oil, that supply will go elsewhere to our competitors such as China. The Canadians have the supply, and we have the demand. And the Keystone XL pipeline has gone through a rigorous environmental review. There's no reason not to move forward with this vital project. The President needs to get off the campaign trail long enough to get his administration out of the way so that the Keystone XL pipeline can be developed.

THE HOUSE-PASSED JOBS AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time this morning. I came down to talk about jobs too, and I brought with me a card that folks may have seen—I know you've seen it, Mr. Speaker—that goes through the House-passed jobs agenda. I try to keep it here in my pocket so I'll be accurate when we talk about all of the good work that is happening in the people's House to promote jobs and promote the economy.

Because the truth is, Mr. Speaker, as you know, we only have two pockets we can dig into. We can dig into the pocket where we talk about government regulations that we are repealing to help job creators, we can dig into the pocket where we talk about government mandates that we're repealing to take the foot of government off the throat of small businesses, or we can dig into the other pocket. And the other pocket is where America's checkbook is. Because it's not my checkbook, as your Congressman. As you know, Mr. Speaker, when I dig into the pocket for the checkbook, I'm digging into your pocket. Every penny that we spend comes out of your pocket.

So we have two choices as we talk about jobs and the economy. Are we going to dig into the pocket of the American taxpayers' checkbook? Or are we going to get the regulatory burden off of America's small businesses? For me, the choice is easy. But the choice hasn't always been easy in this House. Time and time again, this House goes to the American people's checkbook to find solutions for America's problems. And I will tell you that there's no problem in America that taking money out of somebody else's pocket is going to fix.

The challenges in America are going to come when we get government out of the way. I represent, Mr. Speaker, as you know, a wonderful district in Georgia. I go back home and I talk about what's going on in the United States House. I ask folks what they want to happen on the United States House of Representatives floor, and they say, ROB, stop helping. Stop. Just get out of